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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Europe focuses on Turkey ahead of EU summit - Sabah  
Ankara expects 'clear' decision from EU - Aksam  
Erdogan warns Europe will pay 'heavy' price if Turkey is turned away - Aksam  
Schroeder: Trukey to be given a date with open-ended negotiations - Hurriyet  
Chirac holds the key before EU summit - Hurriyet  
France stirs Armenian controversy - Sabah  
FM Gul due in Israel early in 2005 - Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Europe focuses locks on Turkey before December EU summit - Zaman  
Edelman offers Ankara Turkey-US-Iraq meeting on PKK - Cumhuriyet  
Edelman announces tripartite security meeting against PKK - Radikal  
France puts Armenian 'genocide' pressure on Turkey - Cumhuriyet  
67 percent of French oppose Turkey in EU, 54 percent support entry talks - Radikal  
Netherlands asks Ankara for assurances on Cyprus - Radikal  
Basra residents split over going to ballot box - Yeni Safak  
Bill Clinton calls on world to help new Palestinian leaders - Yeni Safak  
Iran calls on US to comply with international law - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Turkey optimistic on EU bid ahead of crucial summit: Deputy Prime Minister Abdullatif Sener warned the EU after a cabinet meeting in Ankara not to cross Turkey's 'red lines,' saying that such a move would be 'unacceptable' for Turkey. Dutch FM Bernard Bot responded by saying that Turkey cannot impose 'red lines' on the EU: 'It's not the EU that wants to join Turkey. We outline the plans, and Turkey will have to accept or refuse them,' Bot stressed. Turkish papers expect EU leaders to give a green light to open accession talks with Turkey at the December 16-17 summit in Brussels, but the decision will likely come with a set of conditions. France wants Turkey to acknowledge the WW I massacre of Armenians during negotiations on Ankara's EU claims, FM Michel Barnier said on Monday. PM Tayyip Erdogan warned that if Ankara is not granted a date to begin entry talks, the EU would have destroyed a 'bridge' with the rest of the world. Leaders of Turkey, Germany and France will meet on December 15 if Paris insists on inserting a second option other than full membership into the draft EU summit declaration. Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende, representing the current EU President, voiced hope that the EU will open entry talks with Ankara in the first half of 2005. 'The goal is membership, but Turkey would also have to look at the possibility that the talks will not lead to a yes,' he said.

PM Erdogan meets with Ambassador Edelman: PM Tayyip Erdogan met for one-and-a-half hours with US Ambassador Eric Edelman at the prime minister's office on Monday evening. The meeting brought a step forward with regard to the ongoing PKK dispute between Turkey and the US when the two countries agreed to hold a three-way meeting including the Iraqi Government to discuss options for dealing with presence of the separatist organization in northern Iraq. Edelman also reminded Erdogan that the US has supported Turkey's EU integration drive for 41 years, and noted that Washington is pleased by recent developments and expects a positive outcome from the December 17 summit. Secretary Powell has been pressing the EU in favor of Turkey, Edelman reportedly told Erdogan. The Ambassador discussed the criticism

directed against the US in the face of the Fallujah operation. Edelman said that such 'unfair' accusations give rise to anti-American sentiment in Turkey, which can be very dangerous. Ambassador Edelman characterized the meeting to the press as 'frank, constructive and thorough.'

Hopes growing for peace in Israel: "Milliyet" reports about a series of seminars held by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) for nine Turkish journalists in Israel, during which the Turks had a chance to talk with various Israeli and Arab media and political figures. In an act of goodwill action, the Sharon government has agreed to release about 200 Palestinian prisoners on the eve of the January 9 Palestine presidential elections, "Milliyet" reports. Several figures with whom the journalists met in Israel believe that Israeli Jews have never been closer to peace with Palestine following the death of Arafat, whom they regarded as the 'chief terrorist.' Barry Rubin, Chairman of the Global Research Center for International Affairs, said that Israel is ready to cede land for peace. An Arab academician criticized Arafat's uncompromising attitude. Israel's leading journalist, Yossi Klein Halevi, said that ideals espoused by the extreme right in Israel regarding expansion in Gaza and the West Bank have brought a nightmare to Israel. Opposition lawmaker Ran Cohen is hopeful that everything will be much easier now that Arafat is gone. "Milliyet" also reports that Turkish FM Abdullah plans to pay a three-day visit to Israel and Palestine right before the January 9 elections in Palestine. Both Israel and Turkey consider the visit to be an important part of efforts to reduce recent strain in bilateral ties caused by Turkish leaders' accusations that Tel Aviv is carrying out 'state terrorism' in Palestine.

Iraqi businessman says Fallujah has become a 'Vietnam' for US troops: Islamist-oriented "Yeni Safak" reports a description of the fight in Fallujah by a 'leading Iraqi businessman,' Nazzal el-Ani, who believes the US has been dragged into a 'swamp' in Iraq. El-Ani, a professor of English who reportedly moved to Turkey's southern province of Mersin, lashes out at US troops for 'shooting at everybody, mostly civilians,' while fighting insurgents in Fallujah. Those who have blamed Saddam for his mass-grave atrocities are digging ten times more graves in two years in Iraq, el-Ani claimed. El-Ani also accused US forces of using phosphorus bombs and nuclear weapons in Fallujah.

Paper speculates on possible No:2 at State Department: "Yeni Safak" asks in a news-commentary who would become the Number 2 figure at the State Department for incoming secretary Condoleezza Rice. Eric Edelman, John Bolton,

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Elliot Abrams and Arnold Kanter are the candidates for now, the paper speculates. Elliot Abrams, a 'hawkish' figure working on the Middle East at the National Security Council (NSC), stands closer to Dr. Rice, according to "Yeni Safak."

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Iraq/US-Turkey-Kurds

"With or Without America"  
Ahmet Tasgetiren observed in the Islamist-opinion maker "Yeni Safak" (12/14): "Due to the growing reaction among the Turkish public and within official circles to the crimes against humanity in Iraqi cities, Washington has started wondering if Turkey is changing its direction. Washington is pressuring Ankara to get a clean answer to the following question: Is Ankara planning to use the EU as an alternative to its relations with the US? The ruling AKP tried to ease the tension by assuring that 'all is well' as far as Turkish-American bilateral ties are concerned. In fact, all is not so well. There are two major problems that need to be addressed. First of all, the Turkish public is furious, and rightfully so, about the abuses and murders carried out by the US in the Islamic world. No government can afford to ignore this fact. . Second, the US operations in Iraq are bringing some serious consequences to the region and to Turkey. Turkish airspace is available for US military flights, and even that is a potential problem. . The Bush administration is made up of a combination of Jews and neo-cons, and it poses a threat to the whole world. Most of the main risks are in the Islamic world - the Middle East -- and are of direct concern to Turkey."

"The Kurds and the West"  
Yilmaz Oztuna commented in the conservative "Turkiye" (12/14): "In Turkey, everyone is treated equally if they do not rebel on the basis of ethnic claims. The degree of equality in Turkey creates envy even in Europe. People who claim that they are not Turks, but rather Muslims and Kurds, have always been viewed with suspicion. This is the State of Turkey, and no one has the power to break this state into pieces. Despite this, some countries, including the United States, are involved in an effort to establish new borders. The US is about to draw new borders by offering

better pieces to certain countries. The US and France have always wanted a medium-sized Turkey. They are exerting efforts to keep Turkey, which has a great potential for development, in check. That is why they are working on their Kurdistan and Armenia projects, so that Turkey will get bogged down in these issues and therefore not have time to extend its influence further in the region. As anti-American feelings and the sense of being 'more Arab than the Arabs' increases in Turkey, the rules of traditional politics could lose their validity."

EDELMAN